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81-55672

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL WITH
SECRET ATTACHMENTS

November 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: NSC Meeting - Monday, November 16, 1981

Attached is an additional agenda item concerning "Assisting an OAU Peacekeeping Organization (PKO)" for Chad. This item will be in addition to the decision item on "A Strategy for Cuba and Central America."

FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Richard V. Allen
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Attachments

NSC review completed - may be declassified in full

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Review on November 16, 1987

State Dept. review completed

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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November 13, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Caspar W. Weinberger

Subject: Assisting an OAU Peacekeeping Organization (PKO) for Chad

We have been following a policy of supporting the OAU and the French call for rapid emplacement of a PKO in Chad to replace Libyan troops there. We have reliable reports that the Libyans have begun to withdraw. However, the French tell us the Libyans are taking everything with them to try to show the country cannot survive without them. Chad will need immediate help from abroad. As a first step, the OAU is expediting efforts to place a PKO in Chad, and Nigeria and Zaire have already asked us bilaterally for support. Once the OAU force is formally organized (probably within the next two weeks), we will most likely be called upon to provide immediate airlift for troop contingents and perhaps to contribute support items such as tents, cots, and food. The French have already offered to assist the OAU.

DOD and State have examined potential PKO support requirements (including airlift, bivouac materials, and rations). We consider those requirements which we reviewed to be manageable with existing assets. However, US airlift support for our military exercise Bright Star 82 (November 9 - December 16) could affect the scale of our support for an initial PKO deployment.

We have estimated that it should cost a modest $12 million to support a 2000 man PKO contingent for 90 days. (Our assessment of what would be required is based on current evidence that the US airlift will arrive in a non-hostile environment.) Actual costs could, of course, vary substantially and can only be determined once firm requirements are known. However, as costs in excess of $12 million would cut severely into other programs and priorities, we believe we should limit our commitment to $12 million, with the prerogative of reevaluating the nature of our participation should cost proposals exceed that figure. We

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would also make clear that, any assistance to be provided would be contingent on a) continuation of the Libyan withdrawal, b) Congressional approval of funds and c) our right to review the effectiveness of the operation after 90 days.

It is critical that the PKO move as quickly as possible in order to limit the possibility of renewed warfare among contending factions, to provide some stability in war torn Chad in the wake of the Libyan withdrawal, and to avoid giving Libya an excuse to return. In order to provide support quickly when needed, we believe we should initiate detailed discussions as soon as possible with France, the OAU, and others to pin down what is really required from us. This encouragement is also necessary, particularly for Nigeria, to keep the momentum going on organizing the PKO. Moreover, having vigorously encouraged the OAU to organize a PKO, we will be open to severe criticism should we refuse to contribute and the PKO ultimately fail. If necessary, we may want the JCS, through its designated command, to begin liaison with the appropriate parties.

We are confident that we can fund the operation up to $12 million under the Peacekeeping Section of the Foreign Assistance Act. It may be necessary, however, for you to exercise your special authority under Section 614 of the Foreign Assistance Act to respond quickly to a situation important to the security interests of the United States. This will be the subject of a separate memorandum, which, if necessary, will be sent to you shortly. In the meantime, we believe we should initiate consultations as soon as possible to ensure Congressional support for our proposed approach.

Action Requested

That you approve a) immediate initiation of consultations with the OAU and contributing African states, as well as with France and other potential donor states, to discuss assistance needed to insert a PKO into Chad expeditiously and b) consultations with Congress concerning sources of funding up to $12 million for such assistance.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

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